

[By Mr. DUPRE.]

A BILL

To be offered as a Substitute for the Bill reported by the Committee on Military Affairs to consolidate companies, battalions, regiments and brigades.

1 *The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact.*
2 That whenever a company shall be composed of less than thirty-
3 five men, a battalion of less than one hundred and seventy-five
4 men, and a regiment of less than three hundred and fifty men,
5 exclusive of commissioned officers, they shall be consolidated
6 with other companies, battalions and regiments in the same
7 brigade until the maximum number of such company shall be
8 attained, unless the whole number of men in the brigade be
9 less than one full regiment; in which case, it shall suffice to
10 form a battalion or regiment out of the whole brigade: *Provi-*
11 *ded,* The number of men therein exceeds the maximum herein
12 established for a battalion or regiment.

1 SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted,* That should the whole number
2 of men in the brigade be less than a battalion or regiment, as
3 determined by the foregoing section, they shall be placed in
4 other companies, battalions and regiments, and these, as well as

5 all other battalions and regiments thus consolidated, shall be as-
 6 signed to other brigades from the same State, if there be any ;
 7 otherwise, in any brigade or brigades in the same *corps d'armes*;
 8 *Provided*, That no brigade shall be consolidated which shall
 9 contain, at the time of consolidation, two regiments of more
 10 than five hundred men, exclusive of commissioned officers, or
 11 whose battalions or regiments may be so consolidated, as to
 12 form two such regiments.

1 Sec. 3. *Be it further enacted*, That from the supernumerary
 2 officers of the companies, battalions, regiments and brigades
 3 thus consolidated, the President shall select the officers to be
 4 assigned to the new consolidated organizations; and he may as-
 5 sign a Brigadier General to the command of a regiment; but in
 6 that case, this officer shall only be entitled to the commis-
 7 sioned and non-commissioned staff of that command.

1 Sec. 4. That the remaining supernumerary officers of the con-
 2 solidated corps shall be allowed thirty days to organize them-
 3 selves into companies, battalions or regiments, in the arm of
 4 the service which they shall prefer, to be commanded by offi-
 5 cers appointed by the President, and to be selected among them.

6 Any officer resigning his commission, may avail himself of the
 7 privilege accorded to him by the Act entitled, "An Act to au-
 8 thorize the formation of new commands to be composed of
 9 supernumerary officers who may resign to join such commands,

10 and to limit and restrict the appointment of officers in certain
11 cases," approved the 14th June, 1864.

1 SEC. 5. That on the exchange of the officers now in captivity
2 who may be thrown out of service by the consolidation con-
3 templated hereof, the President may select and appoint any of
4 them to commands which they are competent, by their rank, to
5 be assigned: the others shall be considered as supernumerary
6 officers, with all the rights granted to such in the preceding
7 section of this Act.

